CRISIS MANAGEMENT ISN’T A LONG TERM SOLUTION

News today that the MacDonnell Shire has agreed to continue providing services to Mutitjulu is welcome, but provides little comfort to the community’s 400 or so residents.

Shadow Minister for Local Government, Willem Westra van Holthe, said the issues at Mutitjulu are symptomatic of the Labor Government’s continued failures on Shire reform.

“In 2006 former Local Government Minister Elliot McAdam flagged Mutitjulu as not coming under control of the Territory’s local government system,” Mr Westra van Holthe said.

“Nonetheless, shire reform went ahead in 2007 and the MacDonnell Shire was either directly or indirectly deceived into believing they had responsibility for shire services in the community.

“If Local Government Minister Malarndirri McCarthy was competent, she would have known this issue would emerge and have had a plan ready to deal with this crisis.

“Instead, she’s offered a short-term fix which shows she is able only to manage from one crisis to another.

“What guarantees do the people of Mutitjulu and MacDonnell Shire have that this situation will be resolved within a month?

“The Minister’s failure to plan for the end of the CDEP transition program is another classic example of this Government’s incompetence in dealing with the on-going problems caused by shire reform.”

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